

# St. George's School Newsletter

Friday 9th January 2026



## From the Head

Welcome back to St George's for a new academic term. It has been great to welcome everyone back this week. This is a particularly important point in the academic year: our Year 13 and Year 12 pupils are taking or preparing for A Level mock exams, while Year 11 continue to build towards their GCSEs. Alongside this academic focus, the term ahead is rich with co-curricular activity and a full programme of House events. There is, as ever, something for everyone to become involved in and to enjoy.

This term my updates will be on the theme of "*Talking about...*". They will explore different aspects of life at St George's: from academic subjects and pastoral care, to the professional services that support the flourishing of our school. Hopefully, sharing what we are working on in school will improve the partnership we have with you at home. This is inspired by our recent INSET days, which have focused on oracy as a central element of the *Achievement* strand of our five-year priorities.

### ***Talking about... Oracy***

Oracy is the ability to speak clearly, listen attentively and engage confidently in discussion. It plays a vital role in learning because pupils often understand ideas more securely when they are given time and structure to talk them through, ask questions and explain their reasoning to others. It's also a vital skill in the modern world and is in increasing demand due to the rise of AI.

Purposeful classroom talk helps to build confidence and deepen understanding. As pupils learn to articulate their ideas and consider different viewpoints, they become more assured, reflective and collaborative learners.

An important part of developing oracy is ensuring that every pupil has regular and meaningful opportunities to speak in lessons. Teaching staff at St George's have been particularly developing a range of strategies known as *warm calling*. This approach gives pupils time to think about a question and prepare a response, before the teacher then invites them to contribute. It removes the pressure of being put on the spot, while still ensuring that all pupils are encouraged to take part.

Warm calling helps pupils to build confidence gradually and ensures that classroom discussion is inclusive rather than dominated by a small number of voices. Over time, pupils become more willing to share their ideas, explain their thinking and engage with others' viewpoints. For parents, this means that your child is being supported to find their voice in a safe and structured way, developing the confidence and communication skills that are essential for success in school and beyond.

A good question to ask your young person might be:

*How did it feel when you were called on to speak in class—was it easier or harder than you expected?*

## Spring Term Chapel Requirements: Temporary Adjustment

As you may have noticed, Easter falls particularly early this year. As a consequence, our Spring term schedule is more condensed than usual, offering only nine Sunday Chapel opportunities and only two evening services.

To ensure our requirements remain reasonable for families during this shorter term, we are making a one-off adjustment to Chapel expectations: Students in Years 7–11 are required to attend two Sunday services this term (instead of the usual three). Please note that the expectation will revert to three Chapel services in the Summer term.

Note: As there are only two evening services this term (25th Jan and 1st March), we encourage families to plan their attendance early.

### Sunday Chapels, Spring Term 2026

11th January 10am – Morning Service  
18th January 10am – Morning Service  
25th January 6pm – Communion Service  
1st February 10am – Morning Service  
8th February 10am – Morning Service  
*15th - 22nd Half Term*  
1st March 6pm – Communion Service  
8th March 10am – Morning Service  
15th March 10am – Confirmation Service  
22nd March 10am – Morning Service

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## School Shoes from Monday

As the temperature goes back up again, all students should be wearing normal school shoes from Monday 12th January.

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## Confirmation Classes for students in Y7 and Y8

We are honoured that the Bishop of Hertford, Dr Jane Mainwaring will be joining us for our annual Church of England Confirmation service on Sunday 14th March at 10am.

We are running confirmation classes during Friday 5 lessons in January, February and March. If any students would like to attend these classes and learn more about confirmation, please email the Rev on [swarner@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk](mailto:swarner@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk)

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## Opportunities at 16 + information evening

We are looking forward to welcoming year 11 and one parent to our Opportunities at 16 + information evening on Tuesday 13th January. Students should come to Goddard Reception to collect a map upon arrival.

The first subject talk is at 6.30 p.m. and students may attend three subject talks.  
Grant and Goddard students should attend the main talk in the Assembly Hall at 6.55 p.m.  
Monk and Watts students should attend the talk at 7.45 p.m.  
The event is now full for any new students who haven't already booked.

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## Rugby Fixtures this weekend

All rugby fixtures this weekend have been postponed due to the weather. We are looking to rearrange these games at a later date. All information has also been updated on SOCS.

Hot off the press!

The brand-new issue of The Georgian is here, lovingly crafted with the voices, ideas, and creativity of our wonderful staff and students. A huge, heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed — your enthusiasm shines through every page. A big thanks to Mr Ellis, our Editor-in-Chief.

Settle in and have a read: You can enjoy the online edition here: [Magazine](#)

Prefer print? We also have a limited number of printed copies available — perfect for curling up with on a cosy afternoon.



Cyber Security - how are you doing with this?

On Monday's INSET Day, all staff received an informative session on Cyber Security from the police. It was thought-provoking and made us all reflect on our current practices and current security measures in place.

One of the most impactful 2-minute videos we watched was called 'A Message from Ella' which really emphasised how our children's data needs to be really protected. The link to it is here if you would like to watch it (apologies there is a swear word in it): [https://youtu.be/F4WZ\\_k0vUDM](https://youtu.be/F4WZ_k0vUDM)

### Tips for Social Media

- ✓ Enable 2SV/2FA
- ✓ Turn off activity broadcasts
- ✓ Check who can see your connections

- ✓ Review profile "about" settings – education, work, relationships, family, life events etc.
- ✓ Limit past posts
- ✓ Check who can see your friends and followers
- ✓ Check who can view your photos

- ✓ Make account private
- ✓ Disable activity status and location
- ✓ Turn on "ghost mode" to hide your location
- ✓ Disable quick-add
- ✓ Stop sending data usage

Why not spend some time this weekend reviewing your social media settings as well as your children's.

# News from the PSA

Happy New Year from the PSA! 🎉

We hope you've had a restful break and wish you a very Happy New Year. We're looking forward to the term ahead and welcoming parent and carer involvement.

## Next PSA Meeting

Our next PSA meeting will take place on Monday, 19th January at 8:00 p.m. in a Goddard Classroom by the reception area. All parents and caregivers are invited to attend. It's a great chance to hear updates, share ideas and get involved.

## Call for Volunteers — Second Hand Uniform Sale & Summer Fete

We're looking for:

- Two volunteers to help coordinate the Second Hand Uniform Sale
- Two to three volunteers to support the planning and delivery of the Summer Fete

Both roles are well supported and very manageable, and your involvement helps make these much-loved events a success. If you'd like to help or find out more, please email [psa@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk](mailto:psa@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk)

## Survey request - have your say on the Christmas Ball!

Thank you to everyone who supported this year's Christmas Ball fundraiser. Whether you attended this event or have never been, we would really value your feedback to help shape future events and ensure they work for as many people as possible.

We have created a short survey which should take no more than a few minutes to complete:

<https://forms.gle/5bGqLc5NoU1XrJVe9>

Your responses are anonymous and will be used solely to inform future PSA planning. We really appreciate you taking the time to share your thoughts and for your continued support.

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## Calling all fabric fans and crafty households

Our Textiles Department is diving into a new wave of creative projects, and we'd love your help. If you have any spare fabric remnants hiding in cupboards, drawers, or sewing baskets, please send them into school so our students can transform them into something wonderful.

And denim lovers, we need you too! We're also on the lookout for old jeans or denim garments for an upcoming upcycling project. The more worn-in, the better—our students are brilliant at giving tired textiles a brand-new life.

Thank you for supporting our young designers and helping us make sustainability a hands-on part of their learning.

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## Request for lidded plastic containers

If you have any spare lidded plastic containers (sweet tubs are ideal) it would be appreciated if they could be passed on to the Food Department for use as spare containers. The staff would be very grateful. Just send them in with your child. Thank you in advance.

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# NEW YEAR NEW YOU!

Start your 2026 fitness journey at

 **ST GEORGE'S GYM**

## OUR PRICES

Monthly Membership: £26.25

Joint Membership: £39.00

Pay As You Go: £6.00

Discounts for St George's Students & U18

## OPENING TIMES



Monday-Friday 5pm-10pm

Saturday 9am-5:30pm

Sunday 9am-10pm



sportshall@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk



01582 716229



St George's Sports Centre, Sun Ln,  
Harpenden AL5 4TD



## Parent & Carer Support Spring Term 2026



FREE to parents and carers living in Hertfordshire

### TALKING TEENS

6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children aged **12-19**, covering:

- The Teen Brain: physical and emotional changes taking place and why behaviour changes.
- The link between behaviour and communicating difficult feelings.
- How to maintain your relationship with good communication.
- Understand risk taking behaviour around drugs, alcohol and gang culture.
- How to negotiate and reduce conflict.



**Mondays 7.45 - 9.15pm**

5<sup>th</sup> Jan to 9<sup>th</sup> Feb

**Online Course: ID 804**

**Wednesdays 7.45 - 9.15pm**

4<sup>th</sup> Feb to 18<sup>th</sup> Mar

**F2F Course: ID 802**

St Albans, AL1 2LE

**Thursdays 7.45 - 9.15pm**

5<sup>th</sup> Feb to 19<sup>th</sup> Mar

**Online Course: ID 803**

### TALKING ANGER in TEENS

6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children aged **11-19**, supporting you to:

- Understand why children & adults get angry.
- Develop strategies to handle anger in yourself and others within your family.
- Recognise the early signs of anger.
- Reduce conflict and arguments.
- Encourage positive behaviour.



**Tuesdays 7.45 - 9.30pm**

6<sup>th</sup> Jan to 10<sup>th</sup> Feb

**Online Course: ID 805**

### TALKING ADDITIONAL NEEDS

A 6-week group for parents and carers of children **2-19**, with any additional need. Your child does not need a diagnosis.

- Understand your child's behaviour.
- Develop strategies that really work.
- Reduce conflict.
- Improve emotional regulation.
- Explore sensory needs.
- Increase your child's resilience.
- Manage different needs in your family.



**Tuesdays 8.00 - 9.30pm**

6<sup>th</sup> Jan to 10<sup>th</sup> Feb

**Online Course ID 797**

**Tuesdays 9.45 - 11.15am**

3<sup>rd</sup> Feb to 17<sup>th</sup> Mar

**Online Course ID 796**

## Children's Wellbeing Practitioner Workshops January – March 2026

Workshops are open to all young people & parents/carers of children and young people who attend a school or are registered with a GP in Hertfordshire. A referral is not needed to access a workshop.

All workshops are currently being delivered online via Microsoft Teams. For more information about what each workshop covers and to book a place onto a workshop, visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/hct-childrens-wellbeing-practitioners-33494371787>



Workshop	Date & Time
<b>Emotional Wellbeing (For Young People 11-16)</b> A workshop focused on adolescents managing their emotional wellbeing and things parents/carers can do to help.	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 6-8 pm Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 6-8 pm
<b>Adolescent Self-Esteem and Resilience</b> A workshop focused on adolescents improving their self-esteem and resilience and what parents/carers can do to help.	Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January 6-8 pm Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 6-8 pm
<b>Supporting your Child's Self-Esteem and Resilience</b> A workshop focused on parents/carers supporting their child to improve their self-esteem and resilience.	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 10-12 pm
<b>Supporting with Sleep Difficulties</b> This workshop focuses on supporting children and adolescents with managing their sleep difficulties and things parents/carers can do to help.	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 6-8 pm
<b>Developing your Child's Emotional Literacy</b> A workshop focused on parents supporting their child with developing emotional literacy.	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 6-8 pm Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February 10-12 pm Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March 6-8 pm
<b>General Emotional Wellbeing and Regulation Tips for Parents/Carers</b> A workshop focused on parents supporting their child's general emotional wellbeing and ability to emotionally regulate.	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> January 10-12 pm Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 6-8 pm Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March 10-12 am

To access the recorded Emotionally Based School Avoidance Webinar please visit:  
<https://www.hct.nhs.uk/service-details/service/childrens-wellbeing-practitioners-21/>



## SEND 25/26 Coffee Mornings

DSPL7 & Vista St Albans+ host coffee mornings where School and SEND Family Workers are available to support parents / carers of children with SEND regardless of a diagnosis. This is an informal and safe place for parents / carers to share information and chat. The DSPL7 SEND Lead and other professionals may also be available for discussions. There is no need to book to attend this drop in session.

**Dates:** Mornings on 8<sup>th</sup> October, 25<sup>th</sup> November, 28<sup>th</sup> January, 17<sup>th</sup> March, 13<sup>th</sup> May & 30<sup>th</sup> June

**Time:** 9:15 - 11:30am

**Venue:** The Hub, Fleetville Junior School, 228 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW. The Hub is to the right hand side of the school building at the bottom of the car park. **There is no parking available onsite, but 3 hours free parking is available nearby in Morrisons supermarket.**

### Appointments

Running alongside our coffee mornings, there is also the opportunity to reserve a 20-30 minute appointment to speak to the following professionals between 9:30am - 12:00pm.

**To book an appointment:**  
Please email  
[admin@dspl7.org.uk](mailto:admin@dspl7.org.uk)

Dates	Professionals attending
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	Thelma Mugovera - Ask Sali (EHCP advice)
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	Harri Nicholas - NESSIE - Anxiety, Mental health & EBSNA
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	Laura Tarrant - ASD & PDA
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Jess Pickle - First Steps, eating disorders, ARFID
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Tanya Suri - Speech & language
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Elaine Bridle- ADHD

Want a career that makes a difference?  
Join our online recruitment event to find out  
about routes into teacher training

## Get into Teaching in Hertfordshire

Tuesday, 10 February 2026

18:00-18:45

Online event

Register at [bit.ly/TeachingInHerts](https://bit.ly/TeachingInHerts)



In partnership with

